

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 61, line 12, as follows. The paragraph is shown as amended in the First Preliminary Amendment filed March 11, 2003.

Provided by the present invention is a novel member of the ICE/Ced-3 family of cysteine proteases. ICE LAP-6 has a unique active site QACGG (~~SEQ ID NO: 10~~) (SEQ ID NO: 11) pentapeptide and is classified in the subfamily most related to Ced-3 and Yama. Ectopic expression of ICE LAP-6 in mammalian cells causes apoptosis.